

**Emergency Commission on Sixth District Congressional Gerrymandering**  
**Wineland Building**  
**16 Francis St., Annapolis, MD 21401**  
**March 1, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

Call to order: 10:14 a.m.

- Chair Walter Olson reviewed the meeting agenda with the Commission. He then shared that the Commission was in receipt of several items submitted by the 2/27 deadline, including 15-18 online maps and four maps submitted through the other submission methods made available to the public. He then briefly noted the public comments received by the Commission which included several comments asking that the Commission fix one particular district other than District Six. He then invited the Commissioners to share any updates or insights since the last time the Commission met.
- Matt Douglas indicated that after seeing school district boundaries and additional research, it affirmed his confidence in two particular submitted maps.
- Chris Howard found the submitted comments interesting. The maps that peaked his interest the most were those that moved Frederick and Carroll back into the Sixth district. He also was interested in ways parts of Montgomery and Howard were redrawn.
- Luis Gutierrez stated that he reviewed all comments and maps. He reminded the Commission that according to the Governor's Executive Order they are tasked with issuing a report based on their decision and proposed that the Commission use that platform to explain the Sixth and Eighth solution and address other concerns and comments they have heard from the public.
- Maury Epner noted that he had envisioned the Sixth district to look identical to what the Hill and Cunningham maps show, which maintain the County integrities of Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegany, Garrett. However, he acknowledges that ideal may not be consistent with sticking to the Sixth and Eighth solution.
- Kathleen Tabor appreciated the maps submitted and was pleased there were viable two-district solutions because that is within the Commission's scope.
- Ashley Oleson referenced the submitted comments asking that the Commission fix District One and believed the Commission's task wouldn't be as difficult if all districts weren't so gerrymandered and that she felt conflicted after reading.
- Judge Williams reminded the Commission that their consensus was to be compliant with the Executive Order and disturb the least amount of congressional districts as possible. Therefore, his concentration in viewing the proposals was to find a plan that united Carroll and Frederick Counties and to see what portions of Montgomery County would need to be put in to reach the number needed.
- Walter Olson was interested in finding a more than two-district solution that was minimally invasive. However, he could not find one. He believed four of the submitted maps were plausible. He also noted that county school districts are not

always compact and can always be redistricted. He also acknowledged there will be disappointed people in the public who perhaps want more than what the Commission has the ability to do.

- Matt Douglas asked for clarification of the group consensus on Frederick and Carroll Counties.
- Walter Olson clarified the consensus was that Frederick County should be reunited and the portion of Carroll County now in the Eighth should be moved to the Sixth. They did not want to rule out other possibilities in case a member of the public submitted a map that could accomplish a solution with minimal impact to surrounding districts.
- Walter Olson then introduced four maps that attempted a two-district solution. The maps met the group consensus for Frederick and Carroll Counties but differ slightly in Montgomery County. He then asked the Commission if they wanted to focus on the two-district solution maps ahead of the “all-in” maps. Commission agreed to focus on the two-district maps.
- The four maps were referred to as: Wolf (actually it was the Wolf2 map, as there were two submissions from Wolf, the Commission focused only on the second map submitted by Wolf), JAsh (Plaintiff’s), Olson, and Politeur.
- The Commission noted that Politeur kept urban areas together, had a compactness issue, split school districts and cut Greater Potomac in half. The Commission agreed it was not as favorable as the others.
- Matt Douglas stated that he felt the other three (Wolf, Plaintiff’s, and Olson) were more viable options, but preferred the Wolf and Olson maps as they both kept the agricultural reserve and decently attempted to follow school district lines.
- The Commission noted that the Plaintiff’s map, which was an attempt by the Department of Planning to replicate the plan outlined in the lawsuit as closely as possible, split communities (Damascus, in particular) that had culturally and historically associated themselves together. It also splits high school districts. The Commission agreed to hold off on an action regarding the map without first reviewing Wolf’s map.
- Walter Olson clarified there needs to be an exact number to reach when creating a congressional district.
- Judge Williams asked if the Commission had heard feedback from present office-holders in District Six or Eight. Walter Olson stated that the incumbents had not come out to the public hearings. The Commission then agreed that should not be a factor in influencing their decision.
- Matt Douglas suggested that they look at the demographic characteristics of the map to the original. Walter Olson noted that with District’s Six and Eight there were not likely to be Voting Rights Act implications. Matt Douglas agreed that even after looking at the demographics for these maps, he did not find an issue of concern, but he just wanted to be mindful.
- The Commission noted that Wolf’s map kept Darnestown together in the Sixth and Laytonsillve together in the Eighth.

- Kathleen Tabor noted that her peers in the Darnestown area feel it is an agricultural community and that they would not object to being in the Sixth district.
- Judge Williams asked the number of Montgomery County residents being moved in Wolf's proposal to the Sixth district.
- Ashley Oleson stated the importance of knowing whether the proposal was splitting up political subdivisions.
- Walter Olson noted that Laytonsville, Poolesville, Damascus, Germantown, Gaithersburg, and Montgomery Village were not being split in Wolf's plan.
- The Commissioners unanimously were in favor of moving forward with selecting the Wolf map. The Wolf map was adopted on behalf of the Commission.
- The Department of Planning will provide the Commission with information regarding the number of people moved from one district to another.
- Commissioners coordinated dates for two public comment sessions. The first public comment session will be held on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Montgomery County, in Germantown if possible. The second public comment session will be held on March 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Hagerstown. The final Commission workshop will be in the Wineland Building in Annapolis at 10:00 a.m. on March 22nd.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.